

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3 and add claims 4-7 as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for generating image data in a computer system, comprising:
 - (a) a computer system having a memory, a display, and a user input means;
 - (b) one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for:
 - (i) defining first image data as a first layer, wherein the first layer has respective co-ordinates within a three-dimensional volume configured with a reference co-ordinate system;
 - (ii) positioning second image data relative to said first image data within said volume by generating a reference pose layer as a guide and configuring the co-ordinates thereof as a second reference co-ordinate system within said volume;
 - (iii) positioning said reference pose layer relative to said first layer for use as a guide for positioning said second image data; and
 - (iv) upon selecting said second image data, defining said second image data as said second layer having respective co-ordinates within said three-dimensional volume configured with said second reference co-ordinate system based on the reference pose layer.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of generating image data comprising:
 - defining first image data as a first layer, wherein the first layer has respective co-ordinates within a three-dimensional volume configured with a reference co-ordinate system;
 - positioning second image data relative to said first image data within said volume by generating a reference pose layer as a guide and configuring the co-ordinates thereof as a second reference co-ordinate system within said volume;
 - positioning said reference pose layer relative to said first layer for use as a guide for positioning said second image data; and
 - upon selecting said second image data, defining said second image data as said second layer having respective co-ordinates within said three-dimensional volume configured with said second reference co-ordinate system based on the reference pose layer.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for generating image data, the method comprising:

defining first image data as a first layer, wherein the first layer has respective co-ordinates within a three-dimensional volume configured with a reference co-ordinate system;

positioning second image data relative to said first image data within said volume by generating a reference pose layer as a guide and configuring the co-ordinates thereof as a second reference co-ordinate system within said volume;

positioning said reference pose layer relative to said first layer for use as a guide for positioning said second image data; and

upon selecting said second image data, defining said second image data as said second layer having respective co-ordinates within said three-dimensional volume configured with said second reference co-ordinate system based on the reference pose layer.

4. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reference pose layer inherits a geometry and reference coordinate system from a parent object.

5. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said reference pose layer is a temporary layer that is deleted once the second image data has been positioned.

6. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reference pose layer is constrained to two-dimensional data based on an XY plane of a local reference coordinate system of the reference pose layer.

7. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reference pose layer is displayed pursuant to the activation of a guide tool by a user.